

CLAIMS

1. A service system for automatically distributing electronic information contents based on a utilization contract made in advance between an information provider and a user, the service system comprising:

information distributing means for distributing electronic information contents to a user; and

an information processing apparatus for receiving and processing the electronic information contents distributed from this information distributing means, characterized in that this information processing apparatus calls and connects the information distributing means at a predetermined first time, and receives and stores the electronic information contents from the information distributing means, and then, reads out and displays the electronic information contents at a second time.

2. An electronic information content automatic distribution service system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said information distributing means comprises: a plurality of electronic information content providing terminal devices for providing said electronic information contents to a user, a terminal connection management device for selecting a terminal device to provide the electronic information contents

based on the utilization contract and for connecting to the information processing apparatus.

3. An electronic information content automatic distribution service system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that advertisement information is distributed from said information distributing means to a user's information processing apparatus together with said electronic information contents.

4. An electronic information content automatic distribution service system as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said advertisement information contains a regionally limited advertisement concerning said user's habitual area.

5. An electronic information content automatic distribution service system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said information provider distributes electronic information contents sequentially updated to said user.

6. An apparatus for automatically receiving electronic information contents distributed from information distributing means based on a utilization contract made in advance between an information provider and a user, the apparatus comprising:

a communication device for calling and connecting the

information distributing means and for receiving the electronic information contents distributed from the information distributing means;

a storage device for storing the electronic information contents received from the communication device;

a display device for displaying the electronic information contents read out from the storage device; and

a control device for controlling at least input and output of the communication device and display device, characterized in that the control device provides control so as to call and connect the information distributing means at a predetermined first time, and to receive and store the electronic information contents from the information distributing means, and then, read out and display the electronic information contents at a second time.

7. An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that there is provided at least operating means operated so as to set a second time for reading out and displaying electronic information contents on said display device.

8. An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that said control device sets a first time for calling and connecting said information distributing means by

counting the first time back from said second time.

9. An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that there is provided a recording medium for operating said control device, said recording medium having recorded therein a control program comprising:

a first procedure concerning a utilization contract made in advance between an information provider and a user;

a second procedure for setting a first time that is a time for downloading electronic information contents from said information distributing means and for setting a second time that is a time for displaying electronic information contents by said information processing apparatus; and

a third procedure for calling said information distributing means to be connected to the user's information processing apparatus at said first time, and receiving and storing electronic information contents from said information distributing means, and then, reading out and displaying electronic information contents by said information processing apparatus at said second time.

10. An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that advertisement information is displayed on said display device together with electronic information contents.

11. An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that said advertisement information contains a regionally limited advertisement concerning said user's habitual area.

12. A recording medium used in the case where arbitrary electronic information contents are automatically distributed from the information provider's information distributing means to the user's information processing apparatus, the recording medium having a control program recorded therein, the program comprising:

a first procedure concerning a utilization contract made in advance between the information provider and the user;

a second procedure for setting a first time that is a time for downloading electronic information contents from the information distributing means and a second time that is a time for displaying electronic information contents by the information processing apparatus; and

a third procedure for calling the information distributing means at the first time to be connected to the user's information processing apparatus, receiving and storing the electronic information contents from the information distributing means, and then, reading out and displaying the

electronic information contents at the second time by the information processing apparatus.

13. A recording medium as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that said first procedure comprises the steps of:

registering a user in said information provider;
selecting a field of electronic information contents by said user; and
inputting a utilization charge payment method according to said electronic information content automatic distribution service.

14. A method for automatically distributing arbitrary electronic information contents from the information provider's information distributing means to the user's information processing apparatus, said method is characterized by comprising the steps of:

making utilization contract in advance between the information provider and the user;

setting a first time that is a time for downloading electronic information contents from the information distributing means and a second time that is a time for displaying electronic information contents by the information processing apparatus;

calling the information distributing means at the first time to be connected to the user's information processing apparatus, and receiving and storing the electronic information contents from the information distributing means, and then, reading out and displaying the electronic information contents at the second time by the information processing apparatus.

15. An electronic information content automatic distribution method as claimed in claim 14, characterized by comprising the steps of:

registering said user in an information provider during said utilization contract; and

selecting a field of electronic information contents by said user so as to input a utilization charge payment method relevant to said selected electronic information content automatic distribution service.

16. An electronic information content automatic distribution method as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that advertisement information is distributed from said information distributing means to the user's information processing apparatus together with said electronic information contents.

17. An electronic information content automatic distribution method as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that said advertisement information contains a regionally limited advertisement concerning said user's habitual area.

18. An electronic information content automatic distribution method as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that said information provider distributes electronic information contents sequentially updated to said user.

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